

## DON EDEN GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD 2021 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

[www.calstate.edu/csUPERB](http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB)



### **Important Dates and Information:**

RFN Release Date: August 27, 2020  
Deadline: Monday, September 28, 2020 before 5:00 p.m. pacific time  
Award Announcement: At CSU Biotechnology Symposium, January 7-10, 2021  
Maximum Award Amount: \$1,750 (\$750 cash prize and travel reimbursement up to \$1,000)

### **Award Description:**

The Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award fosters excellence in graduate student research throughout the California State University (CSU) system in biotechnology, covering a broad range of topics in cellular, molecular, chemical and physical studies of the life sciences. The award is designed to recognize and promote successful scientific communication to general audiences, to celebrate the work of outstanding graduate student researchers, and to highlight the pioneering work of collaborative faculty-student research groups.

This award honors Professor Don Eden (San Francisco State University) who held his students, colleagues and himself to the highest standards of excellence in research. In 1998 Professor Eden received the CSUPERB Faculty Research Award and was a tireless participant in CSUPERB governance from that time until his death in 2000. Professor Eden's own research was in biophysics and physical biochemistry, therefore, nomination of students using these approaches is particularly encouraged.

The Eden Award competition is held at the virtual annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 7-10, 2021). The maximum Eden Award is \$1,750 and is awarded as both a cash prize and a travel allowance to attend a professional meeting.

### **Eden Award Eligibility:**

- The Eden Award program is open to any CSU student engaged in master's level biotechnology-related research or in the first two years of a doctoral biotechnology-related program. However, previous Eden Award Finalists are not eligible for this year's competition.
- The research project presented must be biotechnology-related. CSUPERB accepts nominations from students in all biotechnology-related disciplines, including but not limited to life science, physical science, clinical science, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.
- Eden Award nominees must be listed as a presenting author on a poster abstract submitted by a CSU faculty advisor and subsequently accepted at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium. Students can only be nominated for work related to one poster accepted at the symposium even if they are an author on more than one poster.
- Eden Award nominees must attend the entire virtual CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 7-10, 2021), to compete in the award competition. Competition activities dates and times will be announced to finalists.

### **Eden Award Selection Criteria:**

- *Quality of Poster Abstract.* The research project presented must be original and innovative; literature reviews alone are not acceptable.

- *Quality of Essay.* Student nominees must write an essay describing the impact the research project (described in the poster abstract) will have on that specific research field, what "integrity in research" means to the nominee, what the nominee's career goals are, and how the research described in the poster abstract impacts those career goals. Because the Eden Award includes a travel allowance, the essay should also provide details about the national or international meeting the nominee plans to attend, if he/she wins the Eden Award. Explain why that particular meeting would be an appropriate setting in which to present your research project.
- *Nomination Letter from Faculty Advisor.* A faculty advisor must submit a signed nomination letter with the nomination package. This letter should provide a fair and objective assessment of the student's academic achievements and research abilities.
- *Quality of Poster and Interview.* Nominees' posters will be judged based on the quality of the work presented, clarity of the data analysis, and ease of viewing. Students will also be judged on his/her ability to answer questions during a poster interview with the review committee.
- *Quality of Short Talk.* Nominees will give a 10-minute talk during the awards session at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium, followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers (15 minutes total). The talk will be judged based on the nominee's ability to effectively communicate why the project is scientifically interesting to a general audience, to clearly present research methods, results and conclusions, to handle questions from the audience, to adhere to the time limit, and to prepare easy-to-read slides.

#### **Nomination Instructions:**

**NOMINATION DEADLINE is Monday, September 28, 2020, before 5:00 p.m. pacific time.**

- Eden nominations must be submitted at the same time and as part of the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium poster abstract submission process using the CSYou system (<http://www.csuperb.org/symposium/poster-info/>).
- Eden nominees should be listed as a presenting author on a poster abstract submitted by a faculty advisor to the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium. CSU faculty members submit abstracts using the CSYou poster abstract submission system. If the poster abstract selection committee does not accept the poster abstract submitted, students will not be eligible for the Eden Award. Please pay close attention to the CSUPERB poster abstract selection criteria.
- Complete nomination packages (see below) must be submitted by the deadline. Supporting Eden nomination documents must be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

A complete Eden Award nomination package includes all of the following (submitted by faculty mentor using the online CSYou poster abstract submission system):

- Poster abstract, submitted to the CSU Biotechnology Symposium
- Signed faculty advisor nomination letter (limit 2 pages) on campus letterhead
- Student essay (limit 2 pages)

#### **Award Selection Process:**

Nominations that are complete and meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel comprised of CSU faculty, administrators and the Eden family. Up to one award will be made each year.

- The CSUPERB program office will evaluate nominations for completeness and eligibility. Qualified nominations will be forwarded to the selection committee.
- The selection committee will make decisions based on the quality of research described in the poster abstract, nominee's essay, and the nomination letter from a faculty mentor. Up to five Finalists will be selected. Nominees not selected as Finalists will be recognized during the poster sessions.

- Finalists will be further evaluated based on their short talk and poster interview.
- The award recipient will be announced and honored during the symposium.

**The Eden Award:**

An award of \$750 will be made in the form of a cash prize issued as a check from San Diego State University to the awardee and sent via U.S. Mail.

The remainder (maximum up to \$1000) will be available to reimburse awardee’s expenses incurred travelling to and from a national or international scientific meeting to present the award-winning research project. Student awardee must be an enrolled CSU student (not yet graduated) or a CSU employee at the time the travel funds are used so that the expenses can be reimbursed. Note that there is currently a CSU ban on travel through June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic which is beyond the control of the CSUPERB program.

**CSUPERB Statement of Principles on Professional Behavior:**

CSUPERB values diverse perspectives where all individuals can flourish. CSUPERB is dedicated to providing an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and creativity, free and lively debate conducted with mutual respect for individuals, and freedom from intolerance. These values are applicable to any aspect of CSUPERB’s work, including meetings, symposia, and funded activities. Specifically, members of our community value:

- Critical scholarly discourse for the purpose of understanding, advancing scientific ideas, and educating the next generation of science and engineering practitioners;
- Education and research environments where all people are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and free of bias, hostility, and harassment of any kind;
- Conversations and discussions where community members can share ideas in a collegial atmosphere that is inclusive and values everyone’s input and opportunity to participate;
- Advocacy for equality and inclusivity in science;
- The use of inclusive examples, graphics, and stories in presentations and proposals;
- Access for all community members, including traditionally underrepresented groups, to fully participate in and become leaders in science;
- The support and promotion of the education and careers of all scientists, engineers, and bio-entrepreneurs;
- Leadership in our fields to strengthen scientific mentorship and create an atmosphere of collaboration;
- Commitment to our own education and participation in activities related to recognizing and eliminating implicit bias.

All participants in CSUPERB events and activities are expected to follow the requirements of Title V, Title IX, and California State University (CSU) Executive Orders and adhere to the CSUPERB Principles of Professional Behavior and values. Non-CSU participants who do not follow these expectations may be asked to leave a CSUPERB event or activity and/or prohibited from participation in future CSUPERB events or activities.

**Program Contacts:**

Nominators are encouraged to contact CSUPERB via email instead of telephone due to the uncertain “work-from-home” scheduling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Submission questions:**

[csuperb@sdsu.edu](mailto:csuperb@sdsu.edu)

**Program and nomination questions:**

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